



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

March 2, 2005

## **CALIFORNIA SALES EXECUTIVE INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL EXPORT OF SENSITIVE U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN**

CHICAGO – Patrick J. Fitzgerald, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois and Elissa A. Brown, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Chicago, today announced that a suburban Los Angeles sales director for a manufacturing company was indicted on federal charges for allegedly attempt to send a product to Iran in violation of the U.S. export embargo on goods to that country.

A federal grand jury in Chicago returned a two-count indictment late yesterday charging the defendant, Juan Sevilla, with two felony counts of violating Customs and Commerce export regulations under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Sevilla, 53, of Gardena, California, is currently sales director and was previously director of international sales for United Calibration Corp., of Huntington Beach, Calif., which manufactures universal testing systems and related software technologies. Sevilla has remained free on his own recognizance since the charges were first brought in February 2004 and he was arrested on a criminal complaint. He will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

According to the indictment, between October 27, 2003, and February 19, 2004, Sevilla attempted to export a United Computer Inclusive Hydraulic Floor Model Testing Machine (which is designed to test and calibrate the tensile strength of steel) from California through Chicago and ultimately to Iran, in violation of the U.S. embargo on Iran. Neither Sevilla nor United Calibration had government authorization to export the product to Iran.

The investigation was conducted by special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The U.S. Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security also assisted in the investigation.

“The export of sensitive technology is controlled for good reason,” Ms. Brown said. “Keeping sensitive U.S. technology and software from falling into the wrong hands is a top priority for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security.”

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Collins.

If convicted, each count carries a maximum penalty on each of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

**# ICE #**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*